Garib Rath trains

†*168. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose of Government behind running the Garib Rath Express trains;

(b) whether it is a fact that these trains are not even able to recover their operational cost due to thousands of seats remaining unoccupied;

(c) the average number of passengers travelling by Garib Raths every month;

(d) the methodology being adopted by Government to compensate the revenue loss caused due to unoccupied seats;

(e) the incentives being given by Government to encourage passengers for travelling by Garib Raths; and

(f) whether Government are still considering to start two more 'Garib Raths' despite incurring loss?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) To provide afforedable air-conditioned service to passengers to long distance trains.

(b) No, Sir. However, train-wise profitability is not maintained by the Indian Railways.

(c) Approximately 30,000.

(d) Does not arise. However, suitable reduction/augmentation of coaches in trains is a regular exercise being done by Indian Railways.

(e) Nil, Sir. However, "Garib Rath" concept is itself is the incentive with low AC fare.

(f) Already introduced.

Electronic industries contamainating the rivers

*169. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by Green Peace has revealed that some of the biggest brands in electronics industries and their suppliers

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.